

Submitted: April 17, 2014
Approved: April 17, 2014

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 02-2014
Thursday, February 20, 2014**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Mayor and Council Chamber on February 20, 2014.

PRESENT

Craig Moloney, Chair
Rob Achtmeyer
Joseph Hansen
Anita Neal Powell

Present: Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning
Payman Tehrani, Assistant City Attorney
Susan Swift, Director of Community Planning and Development Services
Carey Albee, Consultant, ERM

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION began at 7:00 p.m. in the Blue Crab Room, and no decisions were made.

II. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

Commissioner Reynolds nominated Commissioner Achtmeyer to chair the Historic District Commission for 2014. Commissioner Neal Powell seconded the nomination.

The vote was unanimous, 3-0, with Commissioner Achtmeyer abstaining and Commissioner Hansen absent.

Commissioner Achtmeyer assumed the role of chair from this point.

III. COMMITTEE/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. Eileen McGuccian, interim Director of Peerless Rockville, provided information on the Peerless Executive Director's job description and discussed the 2014 events calendar. You may contact Peerless Rockville for more information at 301-762-0096, or see www.peerlessrockville.org.

- B. Anita Neal Powell informed the HDC that the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation will be celebrating their 37th anniversary. You may contact Anita Neal Powell, Executive Director with questions at 301-674-1644, or email to lincolnparkhist@aol.com.
- C. There were no Public Comments/Open Forum.
- D. There were no comments from staff.
- E. Recognition of Robin Ziek. A letter of acknowledgement was read into the record in recognition of Robin Ziek and her contribution to the City of Rockville's historic preservation program and the HDC, and for her many years of service.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The items on the Consent Agenda consisted of the November 21, 2013 and December 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Reynolds moved, seconded by Commissioner Moloney, to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

The motion passed 4-0 (Commissioner Hansen was absent).

V. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

HDC2014- 00659, 211 Virginia Avenue, Charlie Gilroy, for Historic significance evaluation of property for demolition.

Jim Wasilak introduced Carey Albee, a Historic Preservation Consultant with the firm ERM. She drafted and presented the staff report for 211 Virginia Avenue and answered questions from the HDC.

The following citizens offered their testimony:

Deborah Landau of Crabb Avenue lives adjacent to the property. She stated that the small houses make up the character of the neighborhood. The seven new identical homes on Crabb Avenue, are destroying the historic character of the neighborhood. She asks that future new home construction take on some of the characteristics of homes original to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Moloney moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal-Powell, to recommend against designation of the property at 211 Virginia Avenue because it does not meet any of the adopted HDC criteria for historic designation.

The motion passed 4-0 (Commissioner Hansen was absent).

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Project updates/follow-up

Jim Wasilak stated that the East Rockville Civic Association expressed interest in modifying their neighborhood plan looking at tools for preservation and conservation.

Commissioner Achtmeyer said he would be more than interested in hearing from them and any others.

Susan Swift provided an overview on the work taking place to evaluate documents the City uses for its historic preservation programs. She stated that Environment Resource Management (ERM) was hired to make suggestions on the role documents play in the process, identify overlaps and make recommendations to streamline the process.

Ms. Swift further stated the consultants will have a report ready in a few months, after which, a work plan will be proposed. This report will help with the designation process and how the documents relate. In turn, this will help the City become more pro-active.

Commissioner Achtmeyer asked about the appointment of an alternate and a review process of the Mayor and Council. He asked if there is a timetable to address this.

Mr. Wasilak offered to draft a letter to Mayor and Council that addresses the HDCs concerns and circulate it back to the HDC for their review.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sandra Y. Driver, Commission Secretary